

Fox Television Stations Inc

5151 Wisconsin Avenue

Washington DC 20016

202 895 3088; Telecopier 202 895 3222

Molly Pauker

Vice President Corporate and Legal Affairs

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

November 3, 1997



Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

NOV - 3 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: MM Docket No. 87-268 - Progress Report

Dear Mr. Caton:

This progress report is filed on behalf of Fox Television Stations Inc. (FTS), pursuant to paragraph 76 of the Fifth Report and Order in the above-referenced docket, wherein the Commission directed licensees that committed to complete their DTV facilities by November 1, 1998 to file progress reports at six-month intervals, commencing November 1, 1997. On April 2, 1997, Mitchell Stern, President and Chief Operating Officer of FTS, confirmed FTS' commitment to install DTV antenna and transmitter facilities at KDFW, Dallas, Texas, WJBK, Detroit, Michigan and WTXF, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, within 18 months of adoption of a DTV Table of Allotments and service rules. This letter describes our progress to date.

At the outset, it must be noted that, while we have established vendor relationships in all areas required for DTV implementation, our ability to meet a number of our anticipated target dates depends upon the ability of third-party contractors to perform as planned, a factor that we simply cannot predict at present. Nonetheless, such contingencies notwithstanding, we are prosecuting all of our DTV installations with vigor and are doing everything possible to meet our target dates at this writing. Moreover, the recent tower tragedy that occurred in Jackson, Mississippi reinforced our determination that all tower-related design, fabrication and construction be done with the highest degree of workmanship and care to ensure the safety of our employees, our independent contractors and the public. We believe it is important not to allow the expedited time frames to undermine this critical mandate.

KDFW, Dallas, Texas

In Dallas, we share two facilities with WFAA, owned by Belo. We have coordinated with Belo on joint use of our current joint tower for DTV. It has been determined that KDFW's DTV antenna pattern will be a Modified Cardioid, with concentration to the northern part of KDFW's viewing area. The DTV antenna will be side mounted, sitting on a vacant leg of the existing candelabra tower, with Belo's DTV antenna located above it. Andrew Corporation has been retained to manufacture KDFW's DTV antenna and Dielectric Communications, Inc. its DTV transmission line. Kline Towers, Inc. has completed the final tower loading study. Design modifications to the tower have been completed by Kline as of October, 1997. The Form 301

No. of Copies rec'd 0+9
List ABCDE

Mr. William F. Caton
November 3, 1997
Page Two

application is being filed today. The order for upgrading the tower has been placed, and, barring unforeseen delays, construction is to begin as weather permits in Spring, 1998, and is expected to be completed by Summer, 1998. The top guy wires will be replaced, as will three cross members.

Transmitter, transmission line and antenna will be ordered by early Winter, 1997-1998. Bids have been solicited from Harris and Comark for the DTV transmitter. We hope to take delivery of the DTV transmitter in Spring, 1998, and, assuming the construction permit has been granted, we expect to install it thereafter. We hope to take delivery of the DTV transmission line and antenna in early Spring, 1998, and to install them thereafter.

Texas Utilities has assured us that there will be sufficient electrical capacity to service the new transmitter and equipment. Tel Pro and CSS have bid on the generator installation and HVAC additions. We have met with officials of the city of Cedar Hill regarding obtaining a building permit to construct outdoor pads for beam supplies, cooling units and generator at the antenna farm. City ordinances require drawings by a Texas-certified engineer, which Kline will supply. At this point, it is anticipated that obtaining this permit will not contribute delay to our schedule.

Kline is scheduled to mount the DTV antenna in late Spring, 1998. If this goes smoothly, it should take seven-to-ten days, during which time KDFW will operate via its standby NTSC facilities. If all goes as planned, we shall begin testing KDFW's DTV facility in Summer of 1998.

WJBK, Detroit, Michigan

It has been determined that the DTV antenna will be side mounted on the station's present tower structure, at its present site. Because both WJBK's NTSC and DTV channels (2 and 58, respectively) may be outside of the remaining core TV band, the engineering design will take into consideration the future replacement of WJBK's NTSC current antenna with a new DTV antenna designed for WJBK's permanent DTV allotment. Dielectric and Andrew were retained to advise on antenna type and transmission line. Two separate, independent structural analyses have been completed on the tower, both recommending reinforcement. In addition to the tower reinforcement, seven guy wires will be replaced.

Because we lacked adequate historical information regarding the tower foundation, bids were solicited from two geotechnical consultants. A leading geotechnical consultant was retained to analyze tower foundations by boring into the soil in and around tower anchors and sending sound or gamma rays through the concrete. This process took six weeks. The results were satisfactory for additional loading without safety risk.

Mr. William F. Caton
November 3, 1997
Page Three

The design for tower upgrade to current standards has been completed. Kline has been retained for tower renovation. An application is being filed today. On account of Detroit's location near the Canadian border, we are seeking expedited Canadian coordination. If all goes as planned, Kline will be able to commence construction, as weather permits, in Spring, 1998. Barring unforeseen delay, tower renovation is estimated for completion in Summer, 1998.

Andrew will manufacture the DTV antenna and Dielectric the transmission line. When the construction permit is granted, orders for these will be placed, looking toward delivery in Spring, 1998, for installation in the Summer, 1998. The DTV transmitter will be ordered in Winter, 1997-1998, hopefully, to be delivered in Spring, 1998, and installed thereafter, if things proceed as planned. The current standby NTSC transmitter is an older tube model that will be removed from WJBK's current transmitter building and replaced with a smaller, solid-state standby NTSC transmitter, to make room for DTV transmission equipment. Necessary electrical and mechanical modifications for the DTV transmitter building are being designed. Testing the DTV facility is targeted for early Fall, 1998.

WTFX, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WTFX owns its present tower, which is situated on land leased from the city of Philadelphia. WTFX has been engaged in negotiations with the city of Philadelphia for renewal of its lease for some time. WTFX currently leases space on its tower to three tenants, none of which can be required to vacate until well after the 18-month build out period.

Kline performed an initial tower analysis. The results were confirmed by a second, independent study. Due to current maximum loading conditions, as described above, both consultants recommend that either significant structural upgrading to the existing tower or construction of a new tower will be necessary for DTV. These considerations are in the forefront of our current negotiations with the city of Philadelphia to renew our lease as soon as possible.

Upon conclusion of these negotiations, should it be necessary to construct a new tower on this property, Kline will attempt to initiate and complete construction of a new tower within 12 months. Any unforeseen delays could cause us not to be able to meet our 18-month deadline. In the event that we are unable to construct a second tower at WTFX's present site, we shall search for an appropriate alternative site in Philadelphia.

If we are unable to find an alternative site in a timely manner or otherwise are unable to meet our 18-month commitment in Philadelphia, we shall attempt to identify an additional major market in which it will be possible to complete a DTV installation by November 1, 1998.

William F. Caton
November 3, 1997
Page Four

If there are there any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with the undersigned at the above address or telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Molly Pauker
Vice President, Corporate and Legal Affairs
Fox Television Stations Inc.



Richard D. Slenker
Executive Vice President, Engineering and Operations
Fox Television Stations Inc.

cc: Hon. William Kennard
Hon. Susan Ness
Hon. Gloria Tristani
Hon. Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Hon. Michael Powell
Roy Stewart, Esq.
Mr. Keith Larsen
Mr. Bruce Franca
Mr. Alan Stillwell
Mr. Robert Eckert
Clay Pendarvis, Esq.
Mr. Gordon Godfrey